

**Understanding Electrical Power System Studies: A Foundation for Electrical Safety**

Wisconsin Safety Council 4-14-2026

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**Purpose of an Electrical Power System Study**

- Safety
- Electrical System Reliability
- Code Compliance

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**Electrical Power System Study**

- Electrical One-line Drawings
- Short Circuit Analysis
- Protective Device Coordination Study
- Arc Flash Incident Energy Analysis

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**Where These Studies Are Required**

- Industrial
- Healthcare
- Institutional
- Commercial
- Large Multifamily Residential Complexes



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**Codes & Standards**

- NFPA-70**  
Electrical Installation
- NFPA-70B**  
Electrical Maintenance
- NFPA-70E**  
Safe Work Practices
- OSHA**  
Standard for Workplace Safety




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**NFPA-70 National Electrical Code**  
ELECTRICAL INSTALLATION REQUIREMENTS

**SHORT CIRCUIT REQUIREMENTS**

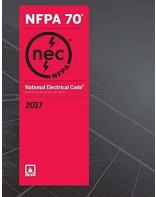

- Ensures equipment is rated to handle high current faults

**PROTECTIVE DEVICE COORDINATION**

- Ensures a selectively coordinated system

**ARC FLASH WARNING LABELS**

- Warns workers of potential arc flash hazards

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**NFPA-70B Standard for Electrical Equipment Maintenance**  
TESTING & MAINTENANCE REQUIREMENTS

**CHAPTER 6 | SINGLE-LINE DIAGRAMS AND SYSTEM STUDIES**

- 6.2 Single Line Diagrams
- 6.3 Short Circuit Studies
- 6.4 Coordination Studies
- 6.7 Incident Energy Analysis (Arc-Flash Study)

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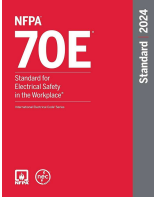

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**NFPA-70E Standard for Electrical Safety in the Workplace**

- How to establish an Electrical Safety Program (ESP)
- Estimate likelihood and severity of potential arc flash
- How to establish an electrically safe work condition
- Determine necessary PPE
- Arc flash label requirements
- Electrical safety training requirements
- Electrical shock protection boundaries (based on voltage)
- Explains how energized work must be justified
- Lockout Tagout (LOTO)

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**OSHA & NFPA 70E**

**SHALL**  
OSHA is Law



**HOW**  
How to comply with OSHA's electrical safety requirements





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**OSHA Requirements** 

**1910 SUBPART S | ELECTRICAL**

**1910.333 | GENERAL**  
 Safety-related work practices shall be employed to prevent electric shock or other injuries resulting from either direct or indirect electrical contacts, when work is performed near or on equipment or circuits which are or may be energized.

**1910.335(A)(1)(I)**  
 Employees working in areas where there are potential electrical hazards shall be provided with, and shall use, electrical protective equipment that is appropriate for the specific parts of the body to be protected and for the work to be performed.

**GENERAL DUTY CLAUSE**  
 Each employer shall furnish to each of his employee's employment and a place of employment which are free from recognized hazards that are causing or are likely to cause death or serious physical harm to his employees.



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**Electrical Power System Study Process**

The slide features a central title in red, flanked by two images: on the left, a close-up of electrical equipment; on the right, a worker in a white protective suit and helmet working on a panel. The PIEPERPOWER logo is positioned above the title.

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**Typical Power System Study Process**

 <b>TURN-KEY STUDIES</b> <i>(Existing Facilities)</i>	 <b>ELECTRICAL SYSTEM STUDIES</b> <i>Design Build or Per Spec (New Installations)</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>On-site data collection / Contact Utility</li> <li>Create One-line diagrams in power study software</li> <li>Perform protective device coordination, arc flash &amp; short circuit calculations</li> <li>Provide recommendations and arc flash mitigation</li> <li>Apply arc flash labels, make breaker adjustments             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Meet with customer for closeout meeting</li> </ul> </li> <li>Maintain the study when modifications are made</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Contractor provides equipment data, submittals, and Utility info</li> <li>Create One-lines / Perform arc flash &amp; short circuit calculations / Engineering work</li> <li>Provide preliminary report to order equipment.</li> <li>Finalize report to account for any changes during construction.</li> <li>Deliver labels, device settings, and final reports to contractor</li> </ul>



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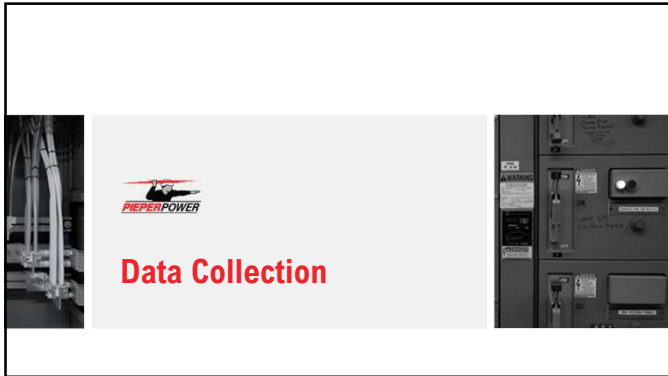
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**Data Collection**

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**Data Collection**

- 1<sup>st</sup> step of any study
- Most time-consuming part of the study
- Licensed electrician safely opens panels and equipment
- Document the necessary information
  - Verify breakers and fuse size and info
  - Verify wire sizes and lengths
  - Trace out necessary circuits to locate all significant equipment
  - Document data for motors, transformers, generators, etc.



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**Data Collection**

- Typically performed during normal business hours while energized
- Reference preventive maintenance test reports
- May perform an IR scan while the equipment is open
- Point out electrical safety concerns
- Contact the electric utility company for fault current information



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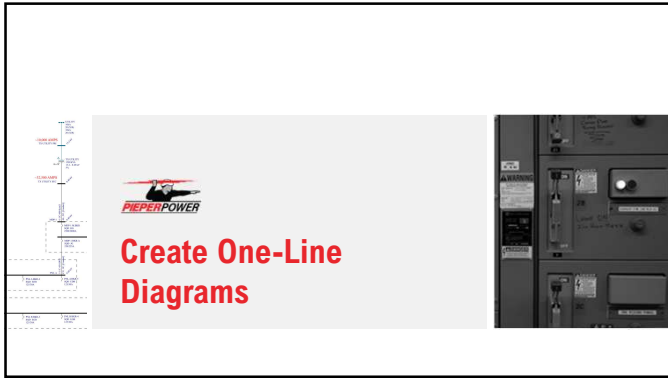
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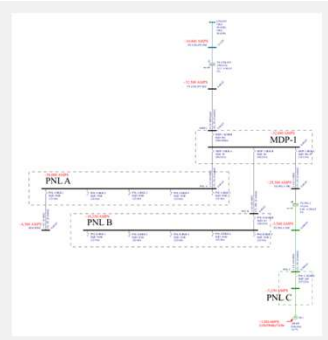
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**One-Line Diagrams**

- Model the one-lines in the latest power system software
- Enter all data collected in the field
- Note any code violations found
- Enter Utility fault current data
- Set up multiple scenarios
- After one-lines are modeled, various studies may be performed



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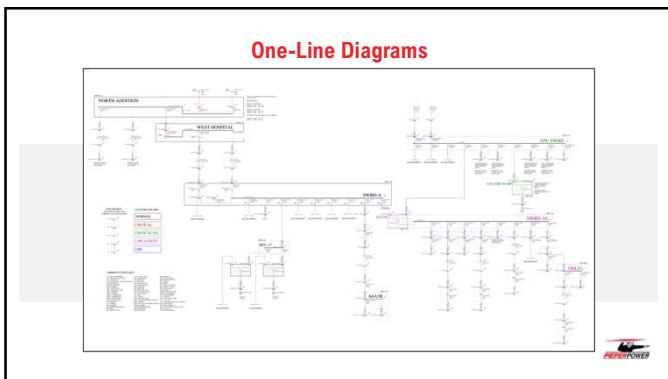
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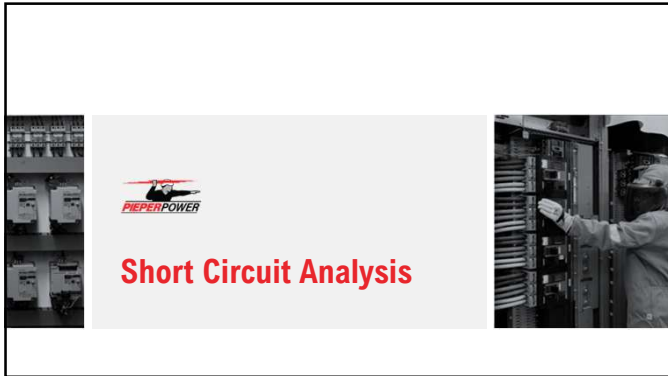
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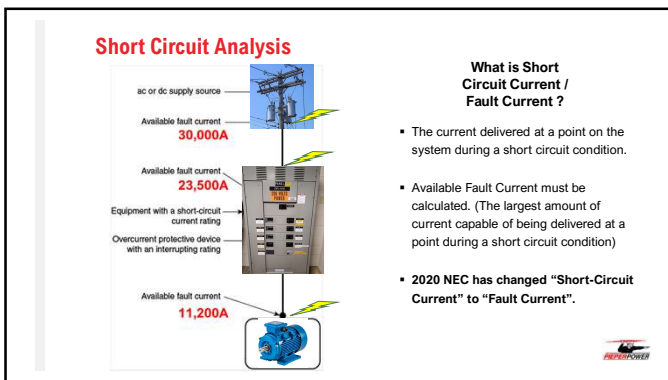
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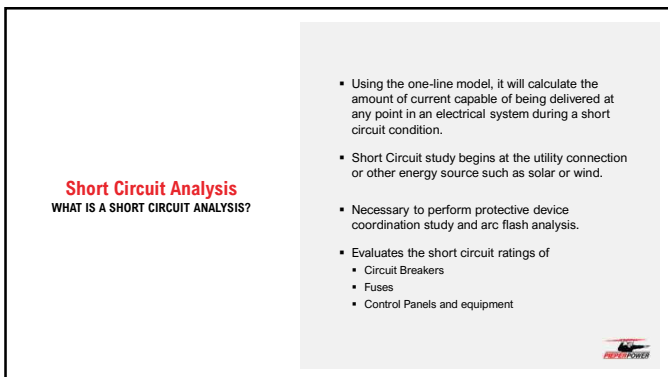
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**Short Circuit Analysis**  
WHY A SHORT CIRCUIT ANALYSIS IS REQUIRED

- Ensure equipment is rated to handle a high current fault
  - Equipment may fail and even explode if subject to short circuit current over its rating
- Required to meet several NEC code articles, and required by OSHA
  - Breakers, fuses, and control cabinets must all be rated to handle the available fault current
- Needed to perform protective device coordination
  - To ensure that there is coordination for all fault levels
- Needed for arc flash calculations
  - Directly affects the arc magnitude and breaker or fuse opening time

IT ALL COMES DOWN TO SAFETY!




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**Short Circuit Analysis**  
WHY IS A SHORT CIRCUIT ANALYSIS REQUIRED?

VIDEO




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**Short Circuit Analysis**  
SHORT CIRCUIT CURRENT RATING




**NEC 2017**

**110.10 Circuit Impedance, Short Circuit Current Ratings, and Other Characteristics**  
The overcurrent protective devices, the total impedance, the **equipment short-circuit current ratings**, and other characteristics of the circuit to be protected shall be selected and coordinated to permit the circuit protective devices used to clear a fault to do so without extensive damage to the electrical equipment of the circuit. This fault shall be assumed to be either between two or more of the circuit conductors or between any circuit conductor and the equipment grounding conductor.



**OSHA STANDARD**

**1910.303(b)(5)**  
*Circuit impedance and other characteristics.* The overcurrent protective devices, the total impedance, the component short-circuit current ratings, and other characteristics of the circuit to be protected shall be selected and coordinated to permit the circuit protective devices used to clear a fault to do so without the occurrence of extensive damage to the electrical components of the circuit. This fault shall be assumed to be either between two or more of the circuit conductors, or between any circuit conductor and the grounding conductor or enclosing metal raceway.



NO.	224743	DATE	10-04-05
SCHEMATIC DIAGRAM	0027/052905		
CIRCUIT	1 PHASE AC 480/208 V 50 Hertz	66.07	
CIRCUIT IMPEDANCE	AC 100 V 50 Hertz	0.87	
SHORT CIRCUIT	1 ANCHOR	0.0001	
PER MOVING PARTS	1	0.0001	
NO. CONTACTS	51.88	0.0001	
		<b>4.1 TOTAL FLASH</b>	
		<b>1.0001</b>	

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### Short Circuit Analysis


#### SHORT CIRCUIT CURRENT RATING

The Available Fault Current is to be calculated at the following equipment;

- 110.24 SERVICE ENTRANCE EQUIPMENT**
  - Documented and made available to AHJ & Field Marked
- 409.22 INDUSTRIAL CONTROL PANELS**
  - Documented and made available to AHJ
- 430.99 MOTORS, MOTOR CIRCUITS, AND CONTROLLERS (MCCS)**
  - Documented and made available to AHJ
- 440.10 AIR-CONDITIONING AND REFRIGERATION EQUIPMENT**
  - Documented and made available to AHJ
- 620.51(D)(2) ELEVATORS**
  - Field Marked
- 670.5 INDUSTRIAL MACHINERY**
  - Field Marked



NEC 2023 Requires the fault current to be calculated and field marked on Switchboards, Switchgear, and Panelboards.



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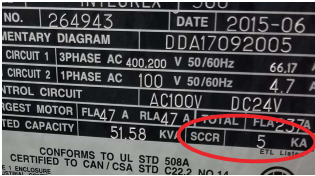
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### Short Circuit Analysis

#### SHORT CIRCUIT CURRENT RATING

- What is the inspector looking for?
- Who is responsible for ordering the proper SCCR?
- Industrial machinery electrical panel installers are required to verify the available fault current at their customer facilities.



CONFORMS TO UL STD 508A  
CERTIFIED TO CAN/CSA STD. C22.2 NO. 14



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### Short Circuit Analysis

#### INTERRUPTING RATING



**NEC 2017**

**110.9 Interrupting Rating**  
Equipment intended to interrupt current at fault levels shall have an interrupting rating at nominal circuit voltage at least equal to the current that is available at the line terminals of the equipment. Equipment intended to interrupt current at other than fault levels shall have an interrupting rating at nominal circuit voltage at least equal to the current that must be interrupted.



**OSHA STANDARD 1910.303**

**1910.303(b)(4) Interrupting Rating**  
Equipment intended to interrupt current at fault levels shall have an interrupting rating sufficient for the nominal circuit voltage and the current that is available at the line terminals of the equipment. Equipment intended to interrupt current at other than fault levels shall have an interrupting rating at nominal circuit voltage sufficient for the current that must be interrupted.




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### Short Circuit Analysis

WHAT MAY HAPPEN IF NOT PERFORMED

- **Equipment may not be able to withstand a high current fault.**
  - Possible fire/equipment damage
  - Risk of injury
  - Unplanned down time.
- **Failed electrical inspection due to the following;**
  - Insufficient breaker kAIC ratings
    - Breakers need to be replaced (\$\$\$)
  - Insufficient short circuit current ratings (SCCR) of equipment (Such as RTUs)
    - Equipment manufacturer may need to increase SCCR (\$\$\$)
  - Electrical contractor may need to add impedance to the circuit (Longer wire, isolation transformer=\$\$\$)

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### Short Circuit Analysis

### REAL WORLD EXAMPLE





- 125A Breaker burned up when attempting to clear a fault at a downstream disconnect.
- Breaker rated for 14kA, in a panel with the available fault current of approx. 21kA
- This is a code violation and safety hazard. (NEC 110.9)

Bus	Manufacturer	ID	Manufacturer	Style	Std. Standard	Rating	SCCR	SCCR	SCCR	Comments
Area	Manufacturer	ID	Manufacturer	Style	Std. Standard	Rating	SCCR	SCCR	SCCR	Comments
144-STUFFING-MEZZ	ABB	STUFFINGCB4	C&K	125A	ANSI 250	125A	14000	21000	480V	480V VOLTAGN
	ABB	STUFFINGCB4	C&K	125A	ANSI 250	125A	14000	21000	480V	480V VOLTAGN
	ABB	STUFFINGCB4	C&K	125A	ANSI 250	125A	14000	21000	480V	480V VOLTAGN
	ABB	STUFFINGCB4	C&K	125A	ANSI 250	125A	14000	21000	480V	480V VOLTAGN
	ABB	STUFFINGCB4	C&K	125A	ANSI 250	125A	14000	21000	480V	480V VOLTAGN
	ABB	STUFFINGCB4	C&K	125A	ANSI 250	125A	14000	21000	480V	480V VOLTAGN
	ABB	STUFFINGCB4	C&K	125A	ANSI 250	125A	14000	21000	480V	480V VOLTAGN

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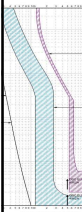
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## Protective Device Coordination



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**Protective Device Coordination**  
WHAT IS A PROTECTIVE DEVICE COORDINATION STUDY?



- Evaluate breaker and relay settings to determine the ideal settings
- Create Time Current Curves (TCCs) in the power study software
- Modify settings in the software to visually verify level of coordination
- Utilize manufacturer's coordination tables
- Modify relays or breaker settings on site



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**Protective Device Coordination**  
WHY IS IT SO IMPORTANT?

- Required by the NEC for Healthcare and Emergency electrical systems
- Ensure that circuit breaker or fuse closest to the fault opens before the upstream devices
- Ensure that critical equipment will remain energized
- Prevent unnecessary or unplanned downtime
- Prevent blackout condition for the rest of the electrical distribution
- Lower arc flash incident energy levels where possible



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**Protective Device Coordination**  
WHERE PROTECTIVE DEVICE COORDINATION IS REQUIRED (2017 NEC)

- 517.31 Health Care
  - Essential Electrical System (Equip. Branch, Critical Branch, Life Safety)
- 620.62 Elevators
- 700.32 Emergency Systems
- 701.32 Legally Required Standby Systems
- 708.54 Critical Operations Power Systems



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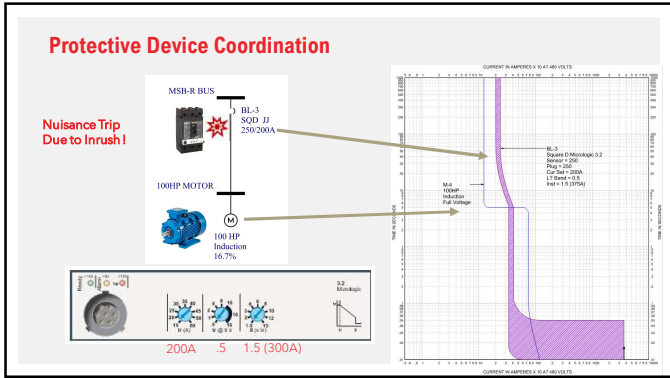
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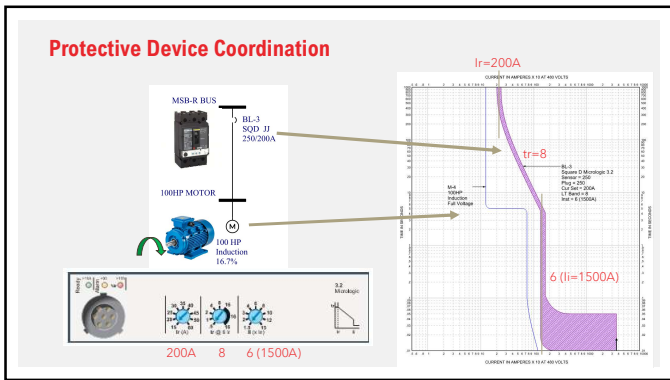
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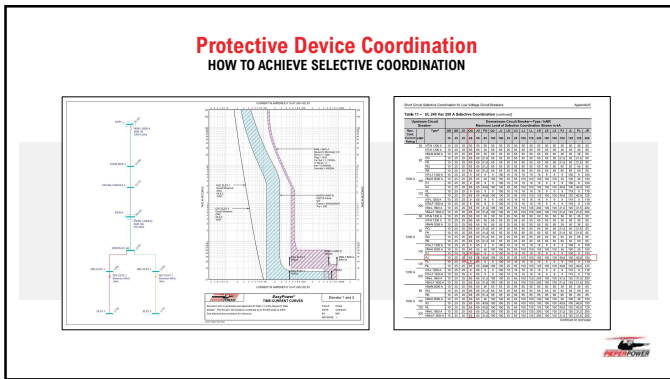
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**Protective Device Coordination**  
STANDARD DELIVERABLES

- Provide spreadsheet with breaker, relay, & fuse information
- Provide recommended settings

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**Protective Device Coordination**  
HOW TO ACHIEVE SELECTIVE COORDINATION

- Set breakers and relays PRIOR to energizing!**
  - Ensure there are no nuisance trips
  - Adjust settings with no arc flash or shock hazard
- Example – 4000A Main Breaker set to 1600A from factory
- Example – 60hp motor shorted to ground, tripped 1200A Main, not the local 100A breaker. Blackout condition for entire building.

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**Protective Device Coordination**  
WHAT MAY HAPPEN IF NOT PERFORMED or NOT PERFORMED PRIOR TO CONSTRUCTION

- Life Safety and Emergency Systems may not selectively coordinate.
  - Loss of lighting
- Unexpected shut down of equipment
  - Interruption of process
- Construction delays – Failed electrical inspection
  - New breakers or fused panels may need to be installed (\$\$\$)
  - Rework the Life Safety or Emergency feeders / equipment (\$\$\$)

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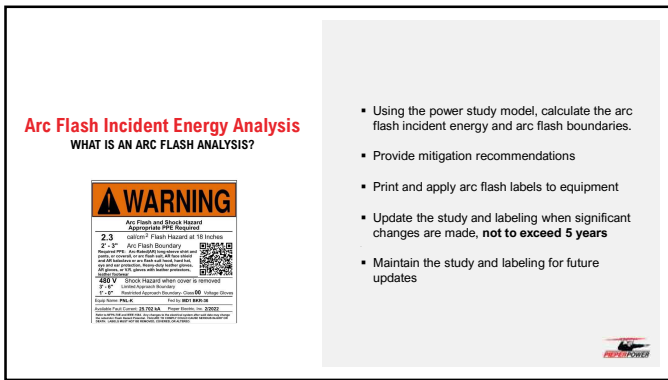
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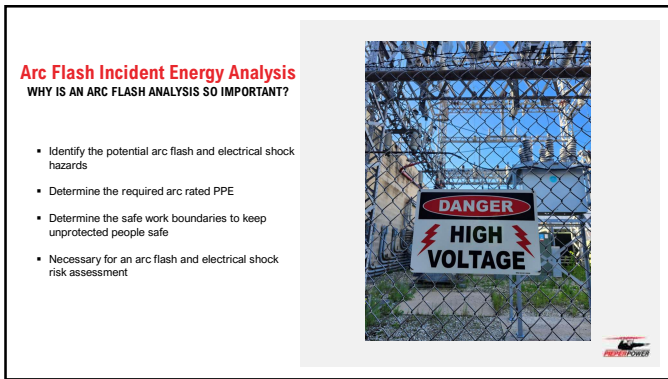
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### Arc Flash Incident Energy Analysis EMPLOYER'S RESPONSIBILITIES

- Provide arc flash / lockout-tagout training
- Establish an Electrical Safety Program (ESP)
- Audit the ESP, Field Work, LOTO Program
- Provide necessary forms
  - Energized work permit
  - Arc flash risk assessment
  - Shock risk assessment
- Provide necessary PPE to qualified employees
- Maintain the arc flash and power study

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### Arc Flash Incident Energy Analysis REQUIREMENTS PERTAINING TO ARC FLASH

#### NEC 2017 | ARTICLE 110 REQUIREMENTS FOR ELECTRICAL INSTALLATIONS

##### 110.16 Arc-Flash Hazard Warning

**General.** Electrical equipment, such as switchboards, switchgear, panelboards, industrial control panels, meter socket enclosures, and motor control centers, that is in other than dwelling units, and is likely to require examination, adjustment, servicing, or maintenance while energized, shall be field or factory marked to warn qualified persons of potential electrical arc flash hazards. The marking shall meet the requirements in 110.21(B) and shall be located so as to be clearly visible to qualified persons before examination, adjustment, servicing, or maintenance of the equipment.

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### NFPA-70E 2024

CHOOSE 1 OF 2 METHODS TO DETERMINING THE REQUIRED ARC RATED PPE

#### ARC FLASH PPE CATEGORY METHOD

- Use NFPA-70E Table 130.7(C)(15)
  - Based on Equipment and Voltage
- May NOT be used if certain parameters are not met (Read the fine print)

**OR**

#### INCIDENT ENERGY ANALYSIS METHOD

- Refer to the arc flash incident energy on the arc flash label
- PPE must meet or exceed cal/cm<sup>2</sup>

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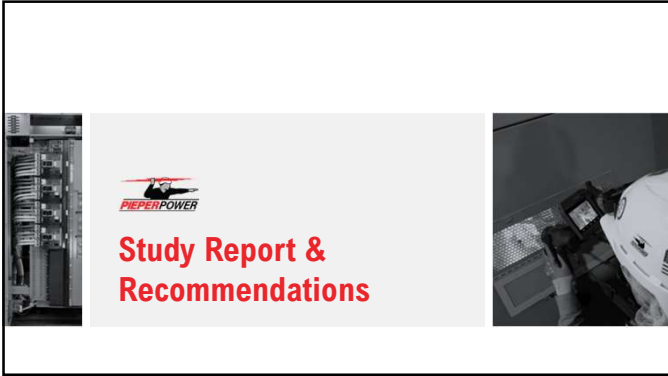
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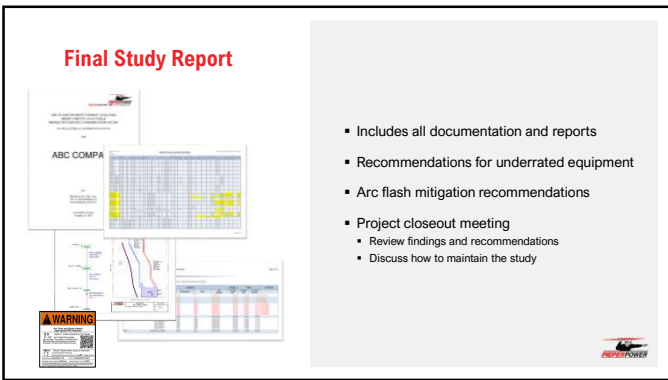
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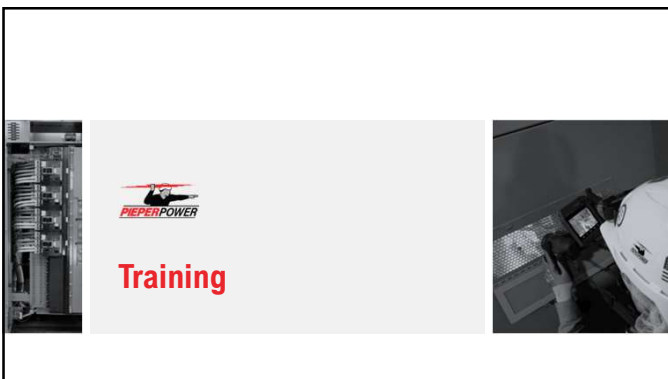
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**Training Requirements**

- **Electrical Safety Training**
  - Train employees exposed to an electrical hazard
  - Train to identify and understand the hazards
  - How to select and wear necessary PPE
  - Not to exceed 3 years
  - Shall be documented
- **Lockout-Tagout Training**
  - Employees involved in lockout/tagout procedures
  - Not to exceed 3 years
  - Shall be documented
- **Emergency Response Training**
  - Employees exposed to electric shock hazards and those who are responsible for the safe release of victim shall be trained in methods of safe release
  - Refresher training to occur annually
  - Shall be documented



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**NFPA-70B Standard for Electrical Equipment Maintenance**



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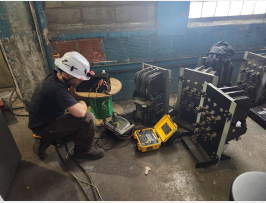
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**Preventive Maintenance NFPA-70B Compliance**



- Required by NFPA-70B
- Intervals depend on equipment type and condition
- Identifies issues prior to failure.



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**Preventive Maintenance**

**WHY PERFORM ROUTINE MAINTENANCE PER NFPA-70B?**


- Protect personnel and equipment
- Avoid unplanned / costly downtime
- Ensure electrical system reliability

**\$13,900,000 – Breaker Explosion Case Settles**

**Pennsylvania – Oct 2009**

An industrial software technician who suffered serious burns in a plasma explosion when a high-voltage circuit breaker at an asphalt plant shorted out has secured a \$13.9 million settlement in his suit against the plant's owner and operator.

- While eating his lunch in the plant's electrical room, the technician suddenly saw sparks and detected the odor of ozone gas, prompting him to shove his co-worker out of the room.
- Before the Technician could escape, the high-voltage circuit breaker exploded with an intense heat that caused a plasma blast, meaning that the metal components had vaporized.
- In the suit against the company, the plaintiff's lawyers alleged that the accident was the result of a **failure to perform routine maintenance**.
- The company's chief electrician admitted in his deposition that the maintenance was not performed and testified that the reason was **financial**, because any work on the electrical system would force "downtime" at the plant.




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**Infrared Thermal Scans**



- Required at least yearly by NFPA-70B
- Intervals depend on equipment type and condition
- Identifies hot spots and issues prior to failure.


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**IR Window Installation**



- Removes the arc flash and shock hazards
- Scan medium voltage or high arc flash equipment while energized
- Scan more frequently during normal pm routes





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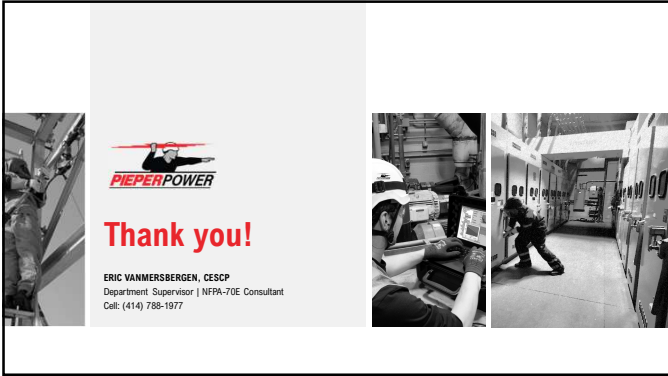
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